

**Claims Amendment C**

**1-8 (cancelled)**

**9. (new):** A coupling for joining abutting ends of relatively soft plastic conduits, comprising:

- a) two half shells,
- b) a plurality of gripping teeth that are circumferential ribbed saw toothed shaped scallops,
- b) a seal, and
- c) a plurality of toggle clamps,

whereby, actuation of said toggle clamps causes said half shells to encompass, grip, and lock together said conduit ends and said seal prevents leakage in or out of said conduit ends.

**10. (new):** The coupling of claim 9 wherein said two half shells contain circumferential ribs that compress said seal into contact with said conduits.

**11. (new):** The coupling of claim 9 wherein said two half shells are made of material significantly harder than said soft plastic conduits.

**12. (new):** The coupling of claim 9 wherein said two half shells are made of relatively hard plastic material.

**13. (new):** A coupling for joining abutting ends of relatively soft plastic conduits, comprising:

- a) two half shells with gripping means,
- b) a generally cylindrical circumferential encompassing seal,
- c) a first toggle clamp on one end of said half shells,
- d) the lever of said first toggle clamp rotates in a clockwise rotation,
- e) a second toggle clamp on the opposite end of said half shells, and
- f) the lever of said second toggle clamp rotates in a counter-clockwise rotation,

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whereby, actuation of said toggle clamps causes said half shells to encompass, grip, and lock together said conduit ends and said seal prevents leakage in or out of said conduit ends.

**14. (new):** A coupling for joining abutting ends of relatively soft plastic conduits preparatory to installation of cable in said conduits, comprising:

- a) two half shells with gripping means,
- b) a seal, and
- c) a plurality of toggle clamps,
- d) a relatively smooth interior surface of said conduits

whereby, actuation of said toggle clamps causes said half shells to encompass, grip, and lock together said conduit ends, said seal prevents leakage in or out of said conduit ends and the interior of said conduits is rendered suitable for installation of cable.

**15. (new):** The method of rigidly joining abutting ends of relatively soft plastic conduits preparatory to installation of cable in said conduits, comprising the steps of:

- a) inserting the end of first said conduit approximately half way into a generally cylindrical continuous circumferential seal,
- b) inserting the end of second said conduit into the opposite end of said generally cylindrical continuous circumferential seal approximately half way into said generally cylindrical continuous circumferential seal,
- c) encompassing said conduits and said seal with a pair of hinged half shells, and
- d) operating toggle clamp levers at opposite ends of said pair of hinged half shells,

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whereby, the two said conduits are rigidly gripped and joined, the resulting joint is adequately sealed, and the interior of said conduits is rendered suitable for installation of cable.

**16. (new):** The method of rigidly joining abutting ends of relatively soft plastic conduits and installing cable in said conduits, comprising the steps of:

- a) inserting the end of first said conduit approximately half way into a generally cylindrical continuous circumferential seal,
- b) inserting the end of second said conduit into the opposite end of said generally cylindrical continuous circumferential seal approximately half way into said generally cylindrical continuous circumferential seal,
- c) encompassing said conduits and said seal with a pair of hinged half shells,
- d) operating toggle clamp levers at opposite ends of said pair of hinged half shells, and
- e) installing said cable in said conduits,

whereby, the two said conduits are rigidly gripped and joined, the resulting joint is adequately sealed, and said cable is installed.